

**FRIENDS OF LENZIE MOSS  
AGM 22 JUNE 2016  
CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

It's been a busy year. Many of our activities appear in our twice yearly newsletters but they bear reiterating.

**NEW NOTICE BOARD**

We received a generous donation of our new notice board located at the top of Heather Drive. It was given by Sanctuary Housing and Cruden Building & Renewal Ltd through their Community Benefit Fund, They also arranged for it to be erected and for the old one to be taken away. Thank you Paul for organising this.

The new board is larger than the one it replaced and now gives us the opportunity to change some of the contents each month and keep it fresh and interesting. We started out with a "What to Look out for ....." item. In April it was the turn of the meadow pipit and in May the barn owl. June heralded the summer warblers and for July we will have the Common Frog, a copy of which you can see on our display board.

We also took the opportunity to update the artwork and we thank Bill Murdoch, the graphic designer with EDC, for his expertise in this.

The old notice board that it replaced is now on Bea's path at the end of Hawthorn. Thank you to Fiona and the Mugdock volunteers for erecting it.

It was sad to note in May that the new board had already been vandalised. Not in a big way but still disheartening. The police have been informed.

**CONSERVATION WORK**

You will hear more from Jackie about this year's conservation work, in particular clearing further birch scrub that was encroaching on the bog, levelling the bunds (the ridges between the channels of cut peat left over from the commercial extraction of peat last century), financially supported by SNH in furtherance of the Scottish Governments policy of protecting peat bogs.

Additional dams have also been installed and the original ones renovated.

The paths in the north woods have been built up to help retain the outflow of water from the bog, to help in rehydrating the bog. This was undertaken by students from Glasgow Kelvin College working towards their John Muir Award alongside the Mugdock Rangers.

After meeting with the Lend Lease team we took their volunteers on a guided walk round the Moss and then arranged for them to spend a day cutting back birch saplings on the fringe of the bog, under the guidance of the Rangers. This was part of their community contribution while they were project managing the building of the new primary school.

We have recently been approached by SNH to see if we would be interested in participating in a presentation video that they will be presenting to the Scottish Government, illustrating how they work with volunteer organisations in conserving important Scottish landscapes. SNH have done a lot of work in regenerating Lenzie Moss and they thought it would be a good example of a volunteer group such as the Friends of Lenzie Moss working with themselves and the local council to conserve a Local Nature Reserve. So, watch this space.

**OTHER ACTIVITIES**

- In August last year we were invited to join Anne Jarvis one of our local EDC Councillors to join her for "Tea With The Provost". This is held to celebrate the work

of local volunteers and we were very pleased to have been nominated by Anne. It gave us the opportunity to hear what is being done by other volunteers in our community.

- In May last year David and I enjoyed getting our hands dirty by helping to plant wild flowers at the top of Heather Drive with children from Lenzie Moss Primary School, who had raised £160 from a sponsored silence to buy the flower plugs. We were also successful in applying for funding for a further batch of flowers. There is further funding for this project in the pipeline and we hope to plant more flowers when volunteers are available. We are keeping a watching brief to see which flowers do well.

It's not been possible as yet to provide machinery to trim the grassland where the flowers are so we're hoping that hand methods will suffice for the time being.

It will take some time for the wild flower meadow become fully established but we wait to see how this develops.

- Local volunteers assembled a number of bat and bird box kits, for which we received a Grant, and these have now been placed in the woodlands. I think this will be a case of "watch this space" to see the outcome. We have a couple of photos here with us on the display board.
- In May this year I took a group of Primary 6 pupils from Lenzie Primary school on a guided walk round the Moss during their Health Week. They already walk round the circular walk each week so I decided to take them off the beaten track. We talked about the history of the Moss, how the bog was formed and the current conservation work, as well as the flora and fauna to be found on the Moss. They were very interested in the dams and all of them wanted to walk across one of the larger ones, which they managed without any of them falling in! They had a running competition to spot the new bird and bat boxes and were keen to spot the residue of railway sleepers along the old mineral railway.
- Paul led a walk of Project Ability members round the Moss which they enjoyed very much. You can read more about this group on their website and also see some of the photographs they took on the day. Thank you Paul.
- EDC has been forced to rein back on expenditure and FoLM has not been immune from the cutbacks. Our input from the Rangers operating out of Mugdock has been curtailed and we plan to try to continue to provide activities on the Moss on our own. We would welcome help from all our members in this, in particular to be part of a small team co-ordinating the activities, so if either you or someone you know would be interested to join our team we would be happy to hear from you..
- Children also enjoyed another Harry Potter broom making session on the Moss in the autumn, overseen by the Rangers.
- Merlwood Nursey continue to use the south woodland near the train station carpark for the Forest Kindergarten activities.
- In October we arranged for a new seat to be installed near the boardwalk at the start of the east-west mineral railway, overlooking the Moss towards the Campsie Fells. The rustic wood was donated by McArthur's Sawmills and the uprights were re-cycled from wood taken out of the playpark at Mugdock. Grateful thanks for the construction go to the Conservation Volunteers, Paul from FoLM, and Alan, one of the Mugdock Rangers who oversaw the project.

## MANGEMENT PLAN

The current management plan for the LNR has now expired and EDC is currently working on the plan for the next 5 years.

## EDC LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (LDP) AND OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

- The emerging EDC **LDP** has still to be ratified and is currently under examination with the Scottish government's Reporter, whose job is to review all the unresolved issues before formally agreeing the LDP which will then cover the period from 2016 to 2021.

Examinations are intended as the principle means of independently examining any unresolved issues arising from representations made by the public and developers on the proposed LDP. The link to the points being considered by the Reporter can be found on EDC's website under their Local Development Plan Newsletter number 34, issued in April this year. The date aimed for resolution of these issues is September this year.

We ourselves have made representations to the Council either directly or in conjunction with the SaveLenzieMoss group throughout the planning process from 2012 onwards. We were in agreement with the proposed LDP which showed no developments impinging on Lenzie Moss.

- We also attended all meetings in connection with the building of **Lenzie Meadows Primary School** and met with EDC and the planners to seek assurances with regard to hydrology, light pollution and access to the Moss from Myrtle. In addition, we registered our concern over changing the nature of pathways over the Moss to the school. Our last communication from the council was that no further action over the pathways was being taken at the moment. We will continue to monitor this.
- In October 2015 we also responded to EDC's **Active Travel Strategy** in relation to their proposal to create a core path through the nature reserve from Lenzie Train Station carpark along the existing path in the south woods and then create a new path over the uncut part of the bog to link up to Crosshill Rd. and onwards to Bishopbriggs alongside the railway line.

Our concerns were that by encouraging increased travel through the nature reserve, particularly by bicycle, this could then give the path the character of a thoroughfare, which we felt was not appropriate for a nature reserve. Lenzie Moss is currently a peaceful place and already well used for restorative walking by all sections of the community, plus casual cyclists, both from Lenzie and from further afield. Dog walkers are frequent users, as are children from local primary schools and a local nursery enjoying educational and outdoor pursuits.

We felt that creating a through-route to encourage additional traffic could jeopardise visitors' enjoyment of this unique place. Lenzie Moss is a green haven in the midst of an urban setting and valued by us all.

The quietness of the Moss also encourages wildlife. This may well be disturbed by additional traffic along the path.

We also had a concern that the proposal may lead to a change to the surfacing of the path, e.g. to a solid surface, to accommodate additional usage, particularly by bicycles. The existing path is a very good surface for what it was intended. It retains its rustic character and winds attractively through the trees, particularly winding round the whitebeam tree. It is reasonably level but not completely flat, particularly by the

whitebeam tree. It's a very pleasant strolling path. A solid path would destroy its character.

In addition, if demarcated bicycle and pedestrian zones are envisaged, it is difficult to see how this can be done without cutting down some trees and again, creating the ambience of a "roadway" as opposed to a country path.

Lighting too, if being considered, would be disadvantageous to wildlife.

We have yet to hear of the outcome.

## **FINALLY**

This is now my last report as chairperson as my 3 year tenure has come to an end.

I would like to thank Jackie from EDC and Fiona and her volunteers from Mugdock. As a committee we really appreciate their invaluable help and support, not just in a practical sense but in showing their interest and commitment to conserving Lenzie Moss for the benefit of us all. Thank you also to George Paterson who, with Paul, has been responsible for updating our website.

I would like to thank all the committee members – Paul, Anna, David, Kate, Iain and Joan – for their help over the past year. I'm sure they will be equally supportive of our new chairperson. My special thanks go to Anna who after 26 years as a member of FoLM has decided to step down from the committee. She has led history walks over the Moss, joined in conservation days, been part of the Newsletter team and attended all committee meetings, and we will sorely miss her contribution to the committee's work over the years. However, she is not retiring completely. She will still remain an enthusiastic member of FoLM itself and will continue to undertake a final editorial review of our newsletter before it goes off to the printers.